

NO. 282.

MISCELLANEOUS READING.
IS THE SUN INHABITED?
 Some astronomers and scientific writers, it is known, have argued strenuously in favor

of the theory that the sun is a planet abundantly stored with inhabitants. One of the most plausible among the systems of argument put forward in advocacy of this view is that the top of mountains of sufficient height at an altitude where clouds can seldom reach to shelter them from the direct rays of the sun are always found regions of ice and snow. If, therefore, the solar rays conveyed all the heat that is found on this globe, it ought to be hottest where their course is least interrupted. Again, all aeronautes confirm the coldness of the upper regions of the atmosphere. Since, therefore, even on this earth, the heat of any situation depends upon the

opiness of the medium to yield to the suppression of the solar rays, it only remains to be admitted that, on the sun itself, the elastic fluids composing its atmosphere and the matter on its surface are of such a nature as not to be capable of any excessive affection from its own rays. Indeed, this seems to be proved by the copious emission of them, for if the elastic fluids of the atmosphere, or the matter contained on the surface of the sun, were of such a nature as to admit of an easy chemical combination with its rays, their emission

would be much impeded. Another well-known fact is that the solar focus of the large lens thrown into the air will occasion no sensible heat in the place where it has been kept for a considerable time, although its power of exciting combustion, when proper bodies are exposed, should, it is known, be sufficient to fuse the most refractory substances.

BABES IN THE WOOD.

A correspondent of the Concord (N. H.) Congregational Journal, writing from Stewartstown, (N. H.) states that on the 26th of October, John Brown, Jr., thirteen years of age accompanied by William Brown, a lad of nine

...were sent into the woods at 11 o'clock. Canada, by far the best of the three hunters, was sent thither from Colebrook, N. H.) to gather a basket of moss with which to stop the cracks between the logs of the new house. Night came but the boys did not return. Until morning the parents passed the night in unavailing search. Next day from fifty to one hundred men from the neighboring towns roamed the woods until noon, but had no success. The cold weather, it was said, had no tidings of the lost boys had reached the anxious parents. Thursday morning an increased number resumed the search, and continued it during the day with no better success. Friday and Saturday were spent in the same manner.— On Sunday a fresh start was taken, which was the last of the country search. The elder lady, on perceiving their approach, started up from the side of the other, and, making an attempt to run. On being told to stop, for they would catch him, he obeyed.

saying, "D 'n't hurt mo, I have been in the
 woods all night." The younger was sleeping
 at the root of a small tree, with one arm
 around it; his arm was stiff and cold, and it
 was so numbly and so heavily laden with
 the weight of his unwelcome burden, that he
 was frightened not to unloose its hold. The
 man and beast, and so were the feet, and the
 latter so swelled that the boots had to be cut
 before they could be stripped off. The boys
 were found only about two and a half miles
 from the house of Mr. Brown. They seemed
 not to be aware that they had been out more
 than one night, and were probably partially
 deranged after the wet night. But had ex-
 posed nothing during the whole five days.

A New York poet, in touching on the con-
 version of Awful Gardner, goeth thus:
 We sing and shout our grateful thanks,
 That Awful Gardner's joined our ranks,
 As the last of the lost and the damned;
 There may be a chance for Patrick Herne,
 And as his mercy's all enduring.

WE may even hope for John Van Buren!

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